



WOW

Festival Conference

What makes a great
WOW education for
**twenty-first
century girls?**

Programme

**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**



Mulberry
School for Girls

 **Ursuline
High School**
WIMBLEDON

 **Parliament Hill**
technology college for girls

What makes a great WOW education for twenty-first century girls?

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS CONFERENCE. THE AIM OF today is to create conversation between women and reflect upon what young women's education should look like in the twenty-first century. There are a number of people to thank for the WOW Festival Conference. First, the speakers who are inspiring role models from whom we can all learn so much. Second, the organisers of this conference, Jo Latham and Sarah Sarwar, assisted by the wonderful staff of Mulberry School for Girls. Third, the Southbank Centre staff who have worked together with us in providing this opportunity. I am especially grateful to Jude Kelly, WOW Festival Director, who invited us to be a part of the festival and whose vision has brought us here to celebrate the strength and inventiveness of women.

Ms V.J. Ogden
Headteacher, Mulberry School for Girls

I'M PROUD THAT THIS IMPORTANT AND PROBING CONFERENCE forms part of WOW - Women of the World 2012. Girls' education - methods, content and context is one of the most important topics in the world today and contains a huge potential for change and challenge around the globe. WOW was launched in 2011 in order to create a powerful focus for progressing gender equality. Through a series of debates, conversations, networking opportunities, presentations, showcases and places to meet, talk and have fun, this festival celebrates the potential and achievements of women and addresses some of the obstacles that they face across the world. Joining are leading women from all sectors, and together we explore in depth some of the most potent topics for women today.

Jude Kelly
WOW Festival Director

CONFERENCE RATIONALE

IN AN AGE OF EVOLVING TECHNOLOGY AND SHIFTING SOCIAL dynamics, it remains important for women to continually assess themselves and their relationships, both with individuals and with society. In order to take action as emerging leaders, we must possess the ability to recognise and rise to the challenges which may lie ahead. With this in mind, Mulberry School for Girls takes great pleasure in announcing the Women of the World (WOW) Festival Conference on 9th March 2012, in partnership with the Southbank Centre, Parliament Hill Technology College for Girls and Ursuline High School, Wimbledon. The conference is part of a series of events forming Mulberry's current Southbank residency and is entitled 'What makes a great 'WOW' education for twenty-first century girls?'

The conference will focus on diverse issues regarding women's education and will bring together hundreds of young women from leading schools across the UK. The primary aim is to raise young women's aspirations and awareness of gender issues through inter-generational dialogue. We seek to facilitate discussion and generate excitement about young women's needs, experiences and interests. Delegates will have the

opportunity to engage with speakers from a variety of backgrounds, from arts to sciences; together they will have honest conversations about some of the complex issues that women face today. The conference will be structured around the exploration of what makes a 'woman of the world' and what tools are required to empower her in the twenty-first century.

The conference will celebrate women's voices and stories and will focus on pressing issues for the twenty-first century woman, such as beauty and body image, emotional wellbeing, and the role of intergenerational and international relationships in female empowerment. Each aspect of the conference has been devised by women with specific interests in relevant topics in order to allow delegates to develop a heightened awareness of a range of gender issues in the twenty-first century.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

- To explore the education of young women in a contemporary context, in order to equip them for success.
- To develop young women's awareness of the wide range of possibilities open to them, by accessing the pool of knowledge of leading experts from diverse backgrounds.
- To empower women with an awareness of gender in mainstream media, literature and the arts, and an ability to express a creative response to its effects.
- To support young women in developing a greater understanding of lessons that can be learned from past generations, historical and living, and adapted for use today.
- To explore what it means to be successful women in the twenty-first century and begin the journey towards developing a supportive sisterhood of postmodern women.

Jo Latham and Sarah Sarwar
Women's Education Officers



PROGRAMME

Time	Event		Venue
9:00-9:30	Registration		QEH Foyer
9:30-10:00	Opening Ceremony	Vanessa Ogden - Headteacher, Mulberry School for Girls	Purcell Room
10:00-10:40	Unravelling performance	Jude Kelly – WOW Festival Director	Purcell Room
10:40-11:00	Break		QEH Foyer
11:00-11:40	Panel 1 – 'What inspired you to become the woman you are?'	Chair: Julia Waters - Ursuline High School Professor Kathryn Riley – Institute of Education Sinead Gallagher –Widening Access,University of Oxford Ruth-Anne Lenga - Holocaust Education Development Programme, IOE	Purcell Room
11:40-12:00	Poetry Performance	Hollie McNish Kat Francois Joelle Taylor Natalie Fiawoo	Purcell Room
	[travel time]		
12:05-13:05	Workshop 1		
13:05-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-14:40	Panel 2 – 'What should young women's education look like in the twenty-first century?'	Chair: Zeenat Islam – Youth Inspire Vicky Jewson – Jewson Film Productions Emily Cummins – Ethical Inventor Dr Kylie Vicent – University of Oxford Jo Tilley-Riley –Champollion Digital	Purcell Room
	[travel time]		

Time	Event	Venue
14:45-15:45	Workshop 2	
15:45-16:00	Break (Photos)	Terrace
16:00-16:30	Plenary	Vanessa Ogden Student speeches Jo Latham and Sarah Sarwar – Women’s Education Officers, Mulberry School for Girls QEH Foyer Stage

WORKSHOPS

Workshop	Venue
History or ‘Her-story’?	Foyer: soft space
Making the World More Beautiful	Foyer: stage
Lessons for my Daughter	Foyer: riverside
Emotional Well-being	Royal Festival Hall: level 4 green bar
Better Together: women of all ages learning together	Foyer: bar area
The Power of Words	Purcell Room
Connecting with Women around the World	Royal Festival Hall: level 3 green prom
Reframing Sexism	Royal Festival Hall: level 3 function room

WORKSHOPS

History or 'Her-story'?

This workshop will create an empowering response to the dominance of male voices in history by learning about and discussing female voices, historical and contemporary. In 1405 Christine de Pizan imagined a 'city of ladies' built and inhabited by the women she admired. We shall be creating our own female city during the workshop, and making a contribution to 'her-story'.

Led by Jo Latham, Women's Education Officer at Mulberry School for Girls.

Making the World More Beautiful

What is beauty today and how do we as individuals define it? This workshop aims to look at how women perceive beauty and what impacts those perceptions across media and culture. Women increasingly feel the need to live up to social expectations and look like the 'perfect woman' ... but is our idea of perfect influenced by outside forces and if so what can be done to change them? The workshop will give power to the people, creating a room of power in which we make the world more beautiful according to us. We have all the power in the world!

Led by Suraiya Chowdhury from Mulberry School for Girls.

Lessons for my Daughter

A mother daughter relationship can be a complex one and greatly affects how young women project themselves in society. Mothers play a pivotal part in shaping the identities of their children and in return are greatly affected and changed by the existence of their daughters in their own lives. This workshop aims to look at how different experiences mould the mentalities of different mothers and daughters. Using poetry and discussion, participants will gain the opportunity to reflect on their own relationships with a parent or child and look at how they may wish to improve it for a more positive experience for both sides.

Led by Sarah Sarwar, Women's Education Officer at Mulberry School for Girls.

Emotional Well-being

In this workshop we will explore what makes a relationship healthy, the kind of qualities we like and the kind we don't. We'll be thinking about all the relationships we have - with our families, friends and partners - and what they share in common, as well as what makes them different. This will develop into examining the 'early warning signs' that are present when a relationship with a partner could possibly become abusive.

Led by Sue Higgins and Susan Collen, Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher at Parliament Hill Technology College for Girls, and developed in conjunction with The Tender Trust.

Better Together: women of all ages learning together

Magic Me runs arts projects that bring together people of different generations. Since 2006 we have worked in partnership with Mulberry School for Girls and The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University. We run an annual project for young women, aged 14 and 15, from Mulberry, and local older women between 55 and 90. Together we have created performance, publications, installations and events. Themes are carefully chosen, to make sure that they are equally resonant for all the women in the group. This year we are exploring stories which evoke love; love of friends, passion for causes, affection for place, and people. Our audio adventure, 'Where the Heart is', will be presented as part of the LIFT 2012 Festival. Today's workshop, led by Sue Mayo, lead artist on the projects at The Women's Library, will explore the ways we can learn together, across age difference. Using activities and ways of co-exploring we have developed in the project we'll discover how it can be 'better together'.

magicme.co.uk

suemayo.co.uk

liftfest.com

londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary

The Power of Words

Spoken word is an expressive and dynamic art form that allows its artists the freedom to express their thoughts and emotions through flexible poetry and performance.

This workshop is an introduction to spoken word designed to help its participants build a foundation for their own spoken word poems. Participants will be introduced to some of the

fundamental aspects of spoken word through interesting and challenging group activities, short personal writing exercises and brief performance coaching.

Led by Ruth Pule from Goldsmiths, University of London.

Connecting with Women around the World

We will be exploring young women's experiences of how they have connected with other women around the world from the USA to Uganda. There will be opportunities to ask questions about what inspired them and how the experience impacted on their lives. We will be investigating and discussing the work of Plan UK a Charity whose campaigns Because I am a Girl and No Girls allowed have helped unlock the cycle of poverty through education.

Led by Julia Waters, Headteacher at Ursuline High School, Wimbledon.

Reframing Sexism

This workshop will use film, creative writing, games and discussion to explore the ways in which we frame images and how we can transform their meanings. We will look at a film clip made in the 1940s and carefully take apart the different signs of sexism in the film. We will analyse the point of view of the camera, the words in the voiceover, and the moral that the film is trying to sell. Taking these images from the distant past, we will add our own words and our own points of view to create a different message for women today.

Led by Tanya Singh, Head of Mulberry Films.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Professor Kathryn Riley

Kathryn was born in Manchester. Her first job was as a volunteer teacher in Eritrea. She has worked in London schools and been an elected member of the Inner London Education Authority (which was responsible for London's schools). She's also been a local authority chief officer where she worked to set up equal opportunities programmes.

Kathryn has a passion for education. She is Professor and Director of Research at the London Centre for Leadership in Learning at London's Institute of Education. She has worked in many countries, including Azerbaijan, Brazil, the Cayman Islands, Guinea, Indonesia, Macedonia, South Africa, Uruguay, the United States and Vietnam. As part of her international work, she headed the World Bank's Effective Schools and Teachers Group in Washington. She's also worked with UNICEF and the OECD (the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) which is based in Paris.

Kathryn's current work includes London Lives (a project which has helped young people develop the skills to research their schools and communities, in order to make a difference). She has published widely. Her latest book *A Place Where I Belong: Leadership of Place - Stories from Schools in the US, UK & South Africa* will be published later this year.



Sinead Gallagher

As Head of Widening Access for the University of Oxford, Sinead is responsible for the strategic coordination of outreach policy and activity to encourage well qualified students from under-represented backgrounds to consider Oxford and subsequently make a successful application. She also plays a role in publicising Oxford's access work to the media, politicians and key opinion formers.

Sinead has been in her current role since April 2009, and has worked for Oxford in the areas of fair access and widening participation since 2006. She applied to Oxford from a state school in Northern Ireland, and is keenly aware of the perceptions of Oxford that still exist for some prospective applicants today.



Emily Cummins

Emily Cummins, 25, is an award-winning inventor with a passion for sustainable designs that change lives. Her latest innovation is a sustainable fridge which is 'powered' by dirty water but keeps the contents dry, hygienic and cool. Emily refined her fridge in African townships before giving away the plans to benefit local people. As a result of her work, Emily was named as One of the Top Ten Outstanding Young People in the World 2010.



Ruth-Anne Lenga

Ruth-Anne Lenga trained as a teacher in 1985 at the University of Warwick and gained a Master's Degree in Religious Education in 1999. She spent many years teaching in various schools before taking up a post as Lecturer in Education at the Institute of Education University of London. She has worked at the Institute for nearly 20 years leading courses at PGCE and Master's level. Working part time at the Institute enabled her to also pursue a parallel career in Museum education, leading a teaching team at the Jewish Museum, London. She has written and designed numerous exhibitions, gallery displays and curriculum materials. Ruth-Anne has also worked as a freelance consultant for organisations involved in teaching about the Holocaust, such as US based NGO Facing History and Ourselves. Her academic interest in the Holocaust has spanned 15 years and she has developed an international reputation for expertise in the field. Her current post is Head of Academic Programmes of The Holocaust Education Development Programme (HEDP) at the Institute of Education, University of London which has led the first large scale national research enquiry into Holocaust Education in English Schools .



Hollie McNish

Hollie McNish is a UK poet whose work has been in high demand since her first timid reading at Covent Garden Poetry Café's Poetry Unplugged night in 2009. She has released two poetry albums, Touch and Push Kick, with the latter prized for contributions to maternal research by the University of London.

Hollie has read at venues as diverse as Glastonbury festival, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Bar and London's Southbank Centre, with her poetry featured on Radio 4's Poetry Diaries, Women's Hour and BBC 2. In 2009, she won the UK Faraggo Poetry Slam and finished third in the World Slam du Monde, Paris in the same year. By 2011 she had completed a poetry residency in Mons, Belgium, opened Southbank Centre's 2011 Women of the World Festival and toured Sydney, Australia in association with the Australian Poetry Slam organisers, Word Travels.

As well as writing and reading her poetry, Hollie works as a poetry and spoken word workshop leader in schools and youth clubs through her organisation: Page to Performance.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Vicky Jewson

In 2008 Vicky's first feature film 'Lady Godiva' was released in cinemas nationwide and subsequently sold in major retailers. It is currently being sold worldwide. Vicky also raised the £1.2million to make the film. Her success garnered international recognition as a filmmaker and business Entrepreneur. She won the Arts Media and Culture Women Of The Future Award (sponsored by Shell) in 2006 and was runner up as Young Entrepreneur Of The Year. Vicky is also a Women Of Achievement Ambassador for Schools, mentoring young people.

Since the age of 7 Vicky has been making films, it has been and remains her life-long ambition. Her production company, Jewson Film Productions (JFP), has a five year plan backed by a board of industry and business professionals that aims to make JFP a super independent studio, building a stable of talent in order to produce three to five films per year.

Vicky has a significant PR following having appeared on/ in numerous media pieces including Jonathan Ross 2008, ITV This Morning, BBC News 24, The New York Times, The Financial Times, Sky 24, The International Herald Tribune and Women's Hour on Radio 4 to name a few.

Her next film 'Born Of War' has been three years in

development and is very much catered around her experiences to date. She has strong relationships across the industry and approaches each project with a keen awareness of making commercial films for a wide marketplace. Born of War has just finished filming in the UK and Jordan and is currently in the post production phase.

In between films Vicky works extensively with actors, shooting short films, showreels and appearing and talking at workshops, all of which keeps her in touch with the creative world film.



Jo Tilley-Riley

Jo began her career co-running the Irene Taylor Trust 'Music in Prisons', before joining communications agency Champollion, where she managed some of the organisation's largest accounts including Scope, the Refugee Council and Garfield Weston Foundation. Last year Jo led the creation of Champollion Digital, a digital sister agency that helps causes with a social benefit communicate and campaign in the online world. Jo's passion for the third sector has been cemented by over six years volunteering with the Woodcraft Folk and currently as Chair of Relate Bromley.



Dr Kylie Vincent

Kylie Vincent completed Bachelor of Arts/Science degrees at Melbourne University, Australia in 1999, specialising in English Literature and Chemistry. Having enjoyed an undergraduate research project in Chemistry, she continued on to a PhD at Melbourne University which included a research year abroad at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, UK. Her first job (in 2002) was as a research scientist in the Chemistry Department at Oxford University, and she now lectures and tutors in Chemistry at Oxford and leads a research group studying bacteria that live on hydrogen gas. She has filed several patent applications and is developing technologies for using enzymes from bacteria to help with industrial chemical synthesis. She regularly speaks in schools about chemistry research and careers. Kylie received the Science and Technology Woman of the Future Award in 2011.



Joelle Taylor

Joelle Taylor is a professional spoken word artist, published poet and playwright, as well as the founder and Artistic Director of SLAMBassadors UK, the national youth slam championships administered by the Poetry Society. She has performed nationally and internationally for the British Council, touring both Zimbabwe and Botswana, and has performed at a diverse range of high profile venues including the Royal Festival Hall, Buckingham Palace, the O2 arena, Glastonbury Festival, and

Trafalgar Square amongst many others. As well as this she is the curator of MotherFoucault, a spoken word cabaret show held at various venues around London. She is anthologised widely and has also appeared on numerous television and radio programmes. Her new poetry collection Ska Tissue was released last year and she toured UK festivals over the summer. It is now in its second edition. Her novel Whorror Stories is due for completion in 2012. She is Poet in Residence at Kingsmead School in Hackney.



Natalie Fawoo

'Visual and honest storytelling that doesn't pull back from precipice.'

Vanessa Walters, Pride Magazine

Natalie Fawoo is a gifted spoken word performer with an emotionally arresting, candid style. Her work is an exploration of relationships, life and sometimes tongue in cheek satire. Over the years, she has performed at various events including Poetry n Motion, Farrago, Adlib, Soul Lounge, SOULcial, Remedy and Jazz Verse Juke Box and in many different venues including Ronnie Scotts, Arsenal's Emirates Stadium and Pentonville Prison. She is a regular featured poet the Poetry Café, Covent Garden and Troy Bar and was the Farrago Easter Slam runner up for 2008.

Having collaborated with established artists such as G.R.E.E.D.S, Kevin Mark Trail and Caligrafi as a singer/songwriter and spoken work poet. Natalie has developed a voice that's beautifully relatable. Whether strongly assured or admittedly defeated, her poems resonate.



Kat François

Kat is a well-known performance poet on the UK and global scene. She was the first person to win a televised poetry slam in the UK, winning the BBC3 TV Slam. That gave her the platform to compete in the World Poetry Slam Championship in Rotterdam the following year where she was crowned 2005 World Slam Champion.

As resident poet at Theatre Royal, Stratford East, London, Kat hosts and organises a monthly poetry and music night called Word4Word. Kat also runs a poetry night every first Friday of the month at the Poetry Café, Covent Garden, called Intimates.

Kat is also an educator and has twenty years experience working with young people. Kat has released a spoken word CD entitled Blessed by Words and is publishes in a number of poetry magazines and anthologies and is a contributor to BBC radio. Her first written collection of poetry, Rhyme and Reason, was published in February 2008.

Since 2005 she has also been forging a name for herself in theatre as a playwright and performer. Her first theatre piece, Seven Times Me, a solo theatre show written and performed by Kat, directed by Dawn Reid, has toured internationally, including the Edinburgh and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, to rave reviews. She has also written and performed a one woman

play called Raising Lazarus, charting the journey of West Indian soldiers who came to fight for Britain during the First World War, which was first preformed in 2009.

Fulfilling a long held secret ambition to hit the comedy stage, Kat wrote and performed Kat's Got Your Tongue, her first full length comedy show, selling out the Theatre Royal, Stratford east studio space in 2010 and performed on the main stage on July 2011 to critical acclaim. Renowned for tackling challenging issues through poetry and theatre, Kat now brings her brand of observational comedy, sketches and characters to the fore.



UNRAVELLING

BY FIN KENNEDY AND MULBERRY THEATRE COMPANY

“Stories, like fabrics,
are lessons in living.”

In an east London fabric shop, a dying mother challenges her daughters to weave her the greatest tale, using nothing more than pieces of cloth. Little do they realise that their prize is far more than the shop itself – it is the power to write their own futures. A bold existential fable about one mother’s legacy to her daughters, and the power of mythology to change your life.

WINNER: Scotsman Fringe First Award 2009

CAST

Seamstress - Kawsara Chowdhury

Mother - Fahmida Ali

Narrators - Nazifa Yasmin and Aisha Sarmad

Eldest - Tahira Miah

Middlest - Farhana Begum

Youngest - Tanzina Tarin

Stage hands - Fidawsi Ahmed and Fatimah Akthar

Director – Shona Davidson



THANK YOU S

We are grateful to the following people for all their support and hard work:

The conference organisers,
Jo Latham and Sarah Sarwar.

Vanessa Ogden for her impressive and on-going contribution to young women's education. Her vision has made this conference possible.

Jude Kelly, Jessica Santer, Sophie Sladen and the staff of the Southbank Centre for inviting us to be part of the WOW Festival and for the strength of their support in organising this conference.

Shona Davison, Chris Stone and the Unravelling cast for their wonderful production.

Ursuline High School, Wimbledon and Parliament Hill Technology College for Girls for their vital contributions to the conference.

Go Agency for designing the conference materials.

Aishah Siddiqah and Nabilah Chowdhury for compering the conference.

All the staff at Mulberry School for their unfailing and generous support.



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